

Go Slow in the Brecks & Fens

Naturetrek Tour Report

15th – 21st June 2026



Blue Emperor



Pool Frog



Marsh Helleborine



Green-eyed Hawkers

Tour report by Su Gough



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Summary

We enjoyed a gentle, week-long exploration of the unique and rich wildlife and landscapes of this ancient and poorly-known part of the UK. The land of prehistoric humans, Boudicca and wartime military activities, Breckland is like nowhere else in Europe. Wide skies and rare creatures combined to make this an unforgettable holiday.

Day 1

Monday 15th June

Sunny with some cloud, 20°C

Most of the group started the tour by joining us for a leg-stretch at Lackford Lakes. This site is an excellent introduction to this incredible area, with the look and feel of Breckland on show, and some of the specialities easily found. A dry field was a blue haze of Viper's Bugloss, a characteristic species of the area, and we quickly made our way down to the first dragonfly pond, where we spotted a number of Smooth Newts, examined a dragonfly exuvium, and watched a female Blue Emperor dragonfly egg-laying, with a much smaller male Azure Damselfly perched on one of her wings and in danger of becoming a snack for her! A Garden Warbler sang constantly nearby, flitting back and forth between patches of scrub, as we slowly made our way to the first lake and settled into the hide.

We spent some time watching the myriad water birds, with Teals and Tufted Ducks joining Shelducks on the water. Black-headed Gulls had well-grown chicks on the tern platform, and a Common Tern gave a fly-by fishing visit. On the water's edge, Oystercatchers and Lapwings patrolled. Heading back to the buses, we found a Common Stretch Spider lying along a reed leaf, and we were all entranced by a Ruby-tailed Wasp checking out a bee hotel next to the visitor centre. We headed back to the hotel, and had plenty of time to relax before meeting up for our first meal.

Day 2

Tuesday 16th June

Sunny, light breeze, 25°C

Our first full day began (after a delicious breakfast) with a drive north into an area of Breckland, and towards the lovely NWT reserve of East Wretham Heath. Here we undertook a short walk, but there was so much to see that we still spent all morning here! Rabbit numbers are still very low, but rising again slowly after the devastation of RVHD disease, and the grass was noticeably shorter than it has been in recent years. The breck heath was fascinating, with Stork's-bill and Thyme-leaved Sandwort obvious. Butterflies were beginning to show, and fresh Small Heaths showed well. We made our way to the hide overlooking the remnants of Langmere, an ephemeral Breckland mere, and immediately saw a pair of Little Ringed Plovers on the edge. Shelducks and Egyptian Geese were roosting on the far side, and a solitary Curlew was on the grass. A Hobby gave a prolonged and low flypast, and a very large Red-banded Sand Wasp appeared on the window of the hide with its unfortunate caterpillar prey.

Having made our way back to Thetford, we enjoyed a leisurely lunch at Thetford Garden Centre, before returning to Thompson Common, another NWT reserve, where the habitat was dramatically different. Here, intriguing pingos (collapsed periglacial ice-cored hills) dominate the scrub, and some very special creatures lurk.

Blackcaps and Yellowhammer were both singing around us, and we found our first orchids, both Common Spotted and Southern Marsh, allowing a chance to compare and realise that we also had the hybrid between the two present: *Dactylorhiza x grandis*. The pingo pools themselves were a big attraction, and dragonflies were zooming back and forth. We were lucky to find a pair of mating Green-eyed Hawkers. Other larger 'dragons' proved to be Hairy Hawkers, a species that would normally be over by this time in the year, a hint that the season was quite late. But, the star, and our main focus, was the reintroduced Northern Pool Frog at its last native site. After a short time searching and hearing 'plops' in the water, we spotted one, and in the end found several, alongside Common Frogs. It was a fantastic end to a great first day out in the field, and we returned to the hotel mid-afternoon, to allow plenty of relaxation time before our next delicious meal.

Day 3

Wednesday 17th June

Light rain at first, clearing, sun and cloud later, 25°C

Overnight, Luke had set a moth trap at a private garden near the Suffolk Valley Fens, which is regularly monitored as part of the National Moth Monitoring Scheme. The trap arrived with him in the morning before breakfast, and many of the group joined the leaders in emptying and recording the moths before they were released, unharmed. Highlights included a stunning and fresh Eyed Hawk-moth and the enormous Privet Hawk-moth, alongside incredibly coloured Elephant Hawkmoths. A Ghost Moth was an unexpected capture, and everyone enjoyed the incredible, broken-twigg camouflage of the Buff-tip. A total of 185 moths of thirty-four species was recorded.

We turned our sights towards the fenland edge of the Brecks, and headed after breakfast to Lakenheath Fen RSPB reserve. It was rather quiet on the reserve, but we did get good views of a singing Common Whitethroat before we reached the first viewpoint. Reed Warblers were flying back and forth, and Reed Buntings were singing around us, as Coot fed their chicks and a Little Grebe trilled in front of us, before a Bittern flew past.

As the heat was building and shade was at a premium, we headed back to the vans and moved on to nearby Weeting Heath for our picnic under the trees, where we were joined by a Wood Mouse and a Bank Vole! A very short walk to the second hide produced excellent views of an adult Stone-curlew, which we watched stalking about the heath, before it returned to feed its two incredibly well-hidden and well-camouflaged chicks. Rabbits were visible, and Stock Doves allowed us to fully appreciate the differences between them and Wood Pigeons.

After such a successful day, we headed back to the hotel for a relaxing evening.

Day 4

Thursday 18th June

Sunny, 25°C

Today was planned as a half day, and we spent it at the river in Thetford, which flows through the BTO reserve. A sub-adult Grey Heron allowed incredibly close approach as it hunted by the car park, and a pair of Mute Swans

had a remarkable six well-grown cygnets with them. We couldn't ignore the stunning Banded Demoiselle damselflies all along the river, and we enjoyed a shady walk onto the reserve. There were lots of invertebrates along the riverside vegetation: Cream-spotted Ladybird and Figwort Sawfly were the best finds. Butterflies were emerging, and we found both Large and Small Skippers, and a couple of incredibly fresh Commas.



Figwort Sawfly



Common Bluetail



Stone-curlew



Sedge Warbler

Everyone had the choice of a relaxing afternoon making use of the hotel facilities, being dropped off at West Stow Country Park, or heading into Bury St Edmunds, and a van went to each location. After dinner, some of the group headed out for the evening visit to Thetford Forest in search of Nightjar. On arrival, we immediately heard one bird churring, although we had to get far enough away from two constantly begging Tawny Owl chicks by the vans! The sunset was magnificent over the forest, and we heard three different Nightjars, with the closest seen flying, feeding and displaying. Success!

Day 5

Friday 19th June

Sunny, hot and humid, 32°C

We made good time heading south, to the very edge of Breckland and the Suffolk Valley Fens. We started at Redgrave and Lopham Fen, opting for a shorter out-and-back walk into the rapidly building heat. Birds were very active, with excellent views of Linnet, Reed Bunting and a Stonechat with food. Large raptors were conspicuous, with Buzzard, Red Kite and Marsh Harrier all visible, and Common Whitethroat, Cetti's, Reed and Sedge Warblers all singing. Some of the group surprised a Chinese Water Deer, and butterflies were everywhere, including our first Small Tortoiseshell and Purple Hairstreaks surrounding a scrubby Oak tree. Dragonflies were few, marking the lull between the spring and summer species, but a short hunt on the first pool revealed our target: a sub-adult Fen Raft Spider, of which everyone was able to get good views through a telescope. Yellow Flag irises were still in flower,

and we found baby pink Common Centaury, red Scarlet Pimpernel and yellow Fiddleneck while spending a little time, in the shade, watching Bee Wolves digging their burrows in the path.

A delicious and leisurely lunch was taken in a nearby garden centre café, but the heat had become seriously unpleasant, so the decision was made to curtail afternoon activities, especially as it was possible to include this afternoon's plan easily into tomorrow's, when it was due to be cooler.

Day 6

Saturday 20th June

Sunny, some cloud, humid, 25°C

Having criss-crossed it several times, our main focus today was Thetford Forest itself, but we began at Market Weston Fen. Orchids abounded, and we quickly found Common Spotted and Southern Marsh Orchids, and added Marsh Helleborine and Marsh Fragrant to the tally. We spent some time looking at a flowerhead that, for many years, has 'ticked all the boxes' for Pugsley's Marsh Orchid, a species now known only to occur in the north and west of the UK. This mystery orchid has finally been confirmed as a subspecies (ssp. *schoenophila*) of Southern Marsh Orchid, only found in the fens of East Anglia. Our main target did take some finding, but we finally located *Dactylorhiza ochroleuca* in what was, until recently, its only site in UK.

Moving on we stopped at Lynford Arboretum, and set out for a lovely, shaded walk under the exotic trees. Nuthatches, Treecreepers and Goldcrests were singing all around us, but remaining resolutely out of sight, and a couple of Firecrests joined the soundscape. Reaching the bridge over the river, we were treated to a brief view of a Water Vole, which we watched for some time, moving through the vegetation and munching noisily, until a dog jumped in the river and the vole scooted off.

We had our final picnic in among the trees and shared our sitting logs with Viviparous Lizards, before we moved on for a brief visit to Cranwich Camp, where we happened upon a Natural England group undertaking site evaluation. A local moth-er had put out pheromone lures, and caught a stunning Orange-tailed Clearwing, which we all enjoyed while being serenaded by a Woodlark. The special plants here are doing very well, and we found many flower spikes of Proliferous Pink, at what is believed to be its only native site in UK, alongside clumps of Spanish Catchfly, a characteristic Breckland flower. An area of bare soil contained some nests of the Seaside Leafcutter Bee, at one of its only inland sites, and even more incredibly a couple of parasitic Large Sharp-tailed Bees were watched scoping out the leafcutter burrows, and dashing down them once provisioned to lay their own eggs.

After a day of several different habitats and much incredible wildlife, we headed back to the hotel for our final evening meal together.

Day 7

Sunday 21st June

Misty at first, sun breaking through later, 25°C

Our final day of the trip dawned misty and cooler, but as several of the group had long journeys home ahead of them, only half the group joined us for a final morning at Lackford. The dragonfly pond was busy again, with a

Lesser Whitethroat singing just behind, and the Garden Warbler from earlier in the week still there. Walking to the first hide, we heard and then saw a Water Rail deep in the undergrowth, but we all managed to get a good look at it, flicking its tail as it foraged around the edge of the water. The first hide entertained us for some time, with a Cuckoo perched in full view and a Sedge Warbler singing so close to the hide windows that we thought he was going to join us! An unexpected pair of summering Wigeons were lounging on one of the islands.

A walk through the woods to the main part of the reserve was worthwhile, and produced several new odonates, including Southern Hawker, Large Redeye and Common Bluetail. Butterflies such as Speckled Wood were obvious, and in the woodland we spotted a large nest of feral Honey Bees. Marsh Tits and Green Woodpeckers were busy going back and forth, and Chiffchaffs, which had been our constant companions, sang from seemingly every tree.

We sadly made our way back to the visitor centre, and brought our holiday to a close.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced		June 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Canada Goose - I	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓
Greylag Goose - I	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓					✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓			✓			✓
Egyptian Goose - I	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓	✓					✓
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓						
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	✓		✓				✓
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>							✓
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓						✓
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	✓						✓
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Red-legged Partridge - I	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓					
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				✓			
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			✓		✓		✓
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia 'domestica'</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓			✓	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓				✓
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>			✓				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓					
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓						✓
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>						✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓		✓				✓
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			✓				
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓			✓			✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓		✓		
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				✓			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					✓	✓	✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		June 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓	✓				
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓		✓		
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>						✓	✓
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓				✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	✓						✓
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>							✓
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						✓	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>					✓		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓	✓	✓		
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓					
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓		
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>						✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓					
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓

Mammals

I=Introduced		June 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
European Rabbit - I	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>						✓	
Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>			✓				
European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>						✓	
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>			✓				
Eastern Grey Squirrel - I	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
Reeves's Muntjac - I	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Chinese Water Deer - I	<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>					✓		

Amphibians & reptiles

I=introduced		June 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		✓					
Pool Frog - I	<i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>		✓					
Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	✓						✓
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>						✓	

Butterflies

		June 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						✓	
Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonius quercus</i>					✓		
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓				✓	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>					✓		✓
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>				✓		✓	✓
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓			✓
Common Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>						✓	✓
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>
Pied Rabbit Moth	<i>Ypsolopha sequella</i>
Diamond-back Moth	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>
Comfrey Ermine	<i>Ethmia quadrillella</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Common Plume	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>
Garden Straw	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>
Plum Tortrix	<i>Hedya pruniana</i>
Orange-tailed Clearwing	<i>Synanthedon andrenaeformis</i>
Lesser Pearl	<i>Sitochroa verticalis</i>
Small Magpie	<i>Anania hortulata</i>
Marbled Yellow Pearl	<i>Evergestis extimalis</i>
Garden Grass-moth	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>
Ringed China-mark	<i>Parapoynx stratiotata</i>
Eyed Hawk-moth	<i>Smerinthus ocellata</i>
Privet Hawk-moth	<i>Sphinx ligustri</i>
Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>
Dwarf Cream Wave	<i>Idaea fuscovenosa</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>
Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>
Marbled Brown	<i>Drymonia dodonaea</i>
Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>
Blackneck	<i>Lygephila pastinum</i>
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>
Spectacle	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
Marbled Clover	<i>Heliothis viriplaca</i>
Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>
Common Rustic agg.	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.
Lychnis	<i>Hadena bicruris</i>
Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>
Shuttle-shaped Dart	<i>Agrotis puta</i>
Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>
Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026						
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Common Spreadwing	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>		✓			✓		✓
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>							✓
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Large Redeye	<i>Erythromma najas</i>							✓
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isocetes</i>	✓	✓					
Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>							✓
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	✓				✓		✓
Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>		✓				✓	✓
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓						

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026						
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>						✓	✓
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>		✓	✓				
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>				✓			

Other insects

Common name	Scientific name
Bugs	
Parent Shieldbug	<i>Elasmucha grisea</i>
Hawthorn Shieldbug	<i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>
Beetles	
Garden Chafer	<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>
Red Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>
Knotgrass Leaf Beetle	<i>Chrysolina polita</i>
Wasp Beetle	<i>Clytus arietis</i>
Red-headed Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i>
Thick-thighed Flower Beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>
Orange Ladybird	<i>Halyzia sedecimguttata</i>
Two-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>
Cream-spotted Ladybird	<i>Calvia quattuordecimguttata</i>
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>
Seven-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>
Flies and allies	
Scorpion Fly	<i>Panorpa germanica</i>
Narcissus Fly	<i>Merodon equestris</i>
Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>
Bees, wasps and ants	
Figwort Sawfly	<i>Tenthredo scrophulariae</i>
Ruby-tailed Wasp	<i>Chrysis ignita</i> agg.
Red-banded Sandwasp	<i>Ammophila sabulosa</i>
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabo</i>
Beewolf	<i>Philanthus triangulum</i>
Ornate-tailed Bee Fox	<i>Cerceris rybyensis</i>
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
Early Bumblebee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>
Tree Bumblebee	<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>
Garden Bumblebee	<i>Bombus hortorum</i>
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>
Vestal (Southern) Cuckoo Bumblebee	<i>Bombus vestalis</i>
Red Mason Bee	<i>Osmia bicornis</i>
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
Chocolate Mining Bee	<i>Andrena scotica</i>
Coastal Leafcutter Bee	<i>Megachile maritima</i>
Large Sharp-tailed Bee	<i>Coelioxys conoidea</i>
Wetted Mason Bee	<i>Hoplia claviventris</i>
Large-headed Resin Bee	<i>Heriades truncorum</i>

Arachnids

Common name	Scientific name
Stretch Spider	<i>Tetragnatha extensa</i>
Labyrinth Spider	<i>Agelena labyrinth</i>
Nursery-web Spider	<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>
Fen Raft Spider	<i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>

Algae

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Chara</i> sp.	a stonewort

Orchids

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026						
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>						✓	
Marsh Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia densiflora</i>						✓	
'Ice-cream' Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza (incarnata) ochroleuca</i>						✓	
Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>		✓				✓	
Southern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>		✓				✓	
Narrow-leaved Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i> subsp. <i>schoenophila</i>						✓	
a hybrid Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza x grandis</i>		✓				✓	
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>					✓		

Other plants

Scientific name	Common Name
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common Horsetail
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Giant Horsetail
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
Dryopteridaceae	Wood Fern Family
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Narrow Buckler-fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern
Athyriaceae	Lady Fern Family
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern
Pinaceae	Pine Family
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Corsican Pine
<i>Larix x marschlinsii</i>	Hybrid Larch
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	Common Meadow-rue

Scientific name	Common Name
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon-grape / Barberry Grape
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle
Fagaceae	Beech Family
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
Betulaceae	Birch Family
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen
Caryophyllaceae	Pink / Carnation Family
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort
<i>Stellaria neglecta</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Silene otites</i>	Spanish Catchfly
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion
<i>Silene x hampeana</i> (S. X <i>dioica</i>)	Hybrid / Pink Campion
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-robin
Polygonaceae	Knotweed / Dock Family
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious Bistort
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Rumex palustris</i>	Marsh Dock
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose
Violaceae	Violet Family
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet
Cucurbitaceae	Gourd / Cucumber Family
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
Salicaceae	Willow Family
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar
Brassicaceae	Mustard / Cabbage Family
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard

Scientific name	Common Name
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Yellow Loosestrife
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	Bog Pimpernel
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble / Blackberry
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Potentilla anglica</i>	Trailing Tormentil
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb-Bennet
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog-rose
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field-rose
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Malus pumila</i>	Domestic Apple
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
Fabaceae	Pea / Legume Family
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch
<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	Bird's-foot
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse
Onagraceae	Willowherb Family
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
Celastraceae	Spindle Family
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle
Hippocastanaceae	Horse-chestnut Family
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut
Aceraceae	Maple Family
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
Geraniaceae	Geranium / Crane's-bill Family
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill

Scientific name	Common Name
Araliaceae	Ivy / Ginseng Family
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy
Apiaceae	Carrot / Parsley Family
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	Marsh Pennywort
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-parsley
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's-water-cress
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Great Bindweed
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Tufted Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water Forget-me-not
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue
Lamiaceae	Mint / Dead-nettle Family
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh Woundwort
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
Oleaceae	Olive Family
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Blue Water-speedwell
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle
<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	Marsh Lousewort
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary Mullein
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape
Lentibulariaceae	Bladderwort / Butterwort Family
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort

Scientific Name	Common Name
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw / Madder Family
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers / Goosegrass
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Galium uliginosum</i>	Fen Bedstraw
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Marsh Valerian
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel
Asteraceae	Daisy / Composite Family
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's-ear
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp-agrimony
Dioscoreaceae	Yam Family
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
Iridaceae	Iris Family
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris / Yellow Flag
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush
Poaceae	Grass Family
<i>Lolium perenne</i> agg.	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
Typhaceae	Reedmace / Cattail Family
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush / Reedmace